



ESSERF GRA DRAWDOWN WEBINAR

Q&A

Question 1: What if we are paying more than one subcontractor? Will the area expand?

The template is set up to report expenses paid to three subcontractors. If the LEA is drawing down expenses for more than three subcontractors, please submit a second (or third) request.

Question 2: Schools with less than \$150,000 do not report? Is that correct?

LEAs with an allocation of \$150,000 or less are not required to provide information about subcontractors and projects. In fact, the GRA template referencing these requirements is only available to LEAs with an allocation greater than \$150,000. Please complete the GRA template and the notes section. LEAs are not required to attach documentation, unless an LEA does not draw down funds at least quarterly. LEAs that do not draw down regularly (at least quarterly) may be asked to submit specific information.

Please keep in mind that any LEA currently close to the threshold of \$150,000, after the reallocation in October, may meet the reporting criteria for allocations greater than \$150,000.

Question 3: Will the reallocation in October give all LEAs a higher amount of ESSERF funds or will some get more and some get less?

The currently unallocated funds will be reallocated in October after final allocation calculations for new and significantly expended charters have been completed. We anticipate that all LEAs will receive a **small, positive** allocation adjustment.

Question 4: How do we handle supply purchases when we may not have a company's EIN number? Paid by credit card over the internet or like Amazon for PPE?

The SDE encourages LEAs to make every effort to obtain the EIN. If this information is not available on the company website, an internet search engine may yield results.

Question 5: How do LEAs allocate [ESSER funds] to charters? Is it a PPA on all students, low income or is there another way?

ESSER funds are allocated to LEAs based on their relative share of Title I-A funds, but ESSER funds are not Title I funds. Therefore, ranking and serving, school and student eligibility, and other Title I requirements do not apply to ESSER funds. LEAs may spend their ESSER funds on any allowable activity (18003(d)), many of which are likely to be districtwide activities. If an LEA

chooses to spend funds to benefit individual schools, it may benefit any school regardless of Title I status. (CCSSO FAQs.)

Question 6: Where is the best place to get information on how to allot to private schools?

Please contact Michelle Clement Taylor for more information regarding equitable services to non-public schools, at 208-332-6963 or mtaylor@sde.idaho.gov.

Question 7: When does the state expect to provide final guidance on private schools' equitable services? Has the federal government responded yet, providing clarification?

Please contact Michelle Clement Taylor for more information regarding equitable services to non-public schools, at 208-332-6963 or mtaylor@sde.idaho.gov.

Question 8: We had about 13 Chromebooks that came back that were unrepairable. Can I tell my IT person to order more and will that be allowable under the CARES for reimbursement? Also, we don't really know what to expect for this next year and if we are in another situation like this we would want to send home our iPads with the elementary students, but we don't have enough for every student. Can we purchase more using the CARES in the event of having to close down again? Also, many of our families did not have Internet capability; if we purchased hot spots to check out to families, can that cost be reimbursed under CARES?

The purchase of computer hardware as well as hot spots fall under Allowable Use of Funds (9): Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students served by the LEA that aids in regular and substantive educational interactions between students and their classroom teachers, including assistance technology or adaptive equipment.

Question 9: Can an LEA use these monies to increase salaries for teachers for 2020-2021? We are in negotiations with our teachers and the IEA rep attending via Zoom last night said that it is an allowable use of these CARE Act funds to fund salary increases for 2020-21.

ESSER funds can be used to cover salary and benefit expenses to maintain staffing level. This falls under the Allowable Use of Funds (1): Any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins), or the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

There are several considerations in determine whether or not to use Federal CARES Act funds to increase teacher salaries:

1. Local spending options for ESSER funds are broad and flexible consistent with the federal government's goal of preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus. The federal government's usual grant cost principles apply to these funds, including the requirement that spending be necessary and reasonable. States do not have authority to limit the uses of ESSER funds (USED FAQs May 2020); however, States do have a role in ensuring activities supported with ESSER funds meet federal grant requirements, including federal cost principles.
2. In the U.S. Department of Education's ESSERF FAQ (published May 2020), Question 15 addresses the "considerable flexibility" LEAs have in determining how best to use ESSER funds (Sec. 18003(d)). Of all the examples the USED could give LEAs on the use of funds, it chooses to identify "personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitizing materials, and similar supplies necessary to maintain school operations during and after the COVID-19 pandemic" and "encourages LEAs to target ESSER funding on activities that will support remote learning for all students, especially disadvantaged or at-risk students, and their teachers."
3. The ESSER Fund does not have a supplement not supplant requirement; however, states and LEAs must still meet maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements.
4. ESSER funds are one-time, temporary funds. If ESSER funds are used for salary increases, how will the increases be sustained?

For Questions Contact

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